



The Governor released his budget proposal for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

In his proposal, the Teacher Credentialing Block Grant is appropriated \$167,467,000. Of that amount, \$65 million is earmarked for schools that are ranked in deciles 1 to 3 to provide mandatory support to third-year holders of preliminary teaching credentials teaching at eligible schools and as a second priority to provide funding for optional training to teachers who are beyond their third year of teaching, but are in their first year of teaching at an eligible school. Also included in that amount is a cost of living adjustment of \$4,864,000 at a rate of 5.18 percent and \$9,555,000 for an increase in the number of eligible beginning teachers.

The Governor's proposed budget also included for the 2005-06 fiscal year an additional \$9.55 million to fund an increase of 2,600 eligible beginning teachers. Since this is part of the proposed 2006-07 budget, it too cannot be realized until the Governor signs the budget. This means that if these funds remain in the 2006-07 budget, programs will not receive any of the funds until after the budget is signed.

While the BTSA Taskforce is pleased that the Governor recognizes the need and value of supporting beginning teachers through the Teacher Credentialing Block Grant, we would like to remind the BTSA community that this budget is a proposal and not a promise of increased funding.

Many negotiations will take place between now and the May Revision of the Budget and again before the final budget is signed by the Governor.

So, for the remainder of the 2005-06 fiscal year, we will continue to operate based on full funding for first year teachers and a reduced rate for second year teachers. Finally, we encourage you to remain cautiously optimistic and to continue your good work in supporting beginning teachers.